

**To:** All Interested Parties

**From:** Anthony J. Preite - Commerce Director  
Bruce Brensdal - Housing Division Administrator

**Re:** Invitation to Housing Coordinating Team Meeting  
Consensus Building for Draft of White Paper on Housing

- May 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Montana Association of Counties Conference Rm (near Airport)

**Please accept this  
Invitation from the Housing Coordinating Team  
to review the White Paper on Housing  
and to participate in the discussion that follows,  
concerning affordable housing in Montana.**

In December of 2007, a group of about 80 people from diverse private, public, and non-profit groups concerned with the affordability of housing met to begin to address the challenges of providing affordable housing to Montanans. One of the suggested next steps that came from that meeting was gathering data and information to document the depth and scope of the problem. This task fell to the Housing Coordinating Team (HCT). A **draft** of the Housing White Paper has been completed, including a narrative section, a page with assumptions and sources of data, and 56 "County Data" pages that project housing scenarios for each county for the year 2020 if recent trends continue unabated. An electronic copy is at [housing.mt.gov/HCT\\_meeting\\_info.asp](http://housing.mt.gov/HCT_meeting_info.asp)

Before serious discussions can take place on the solutions to housing issues here in Montana, a general consensus needs to be reached on the basic problems and issues that underlie the provision of affordable housing. This White Paper is a starting point from which to reach that consensus.

Meeting Montana's affordable housing needs in the future demands the best thinking and problem solving we can muster. You are invited to a meeting to discuss this White Paper with two goals: reaching agreement on the core problems that underlie affordable housing in Montana, and beginning the process of problem solving by bringing together working groups of diverse interests. You are receiving this invitation because you have valuable insight into some aspects of affordable housing in Montana to contribute to the problem identification and problem solving process.

**This meeting is scheduled for:**

Day: **Thursday, May 29, 2008**  
Time: **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (lunch provided)**  
Location: **Montana Association of Counties Conference Room  
2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, Montana**

Please notify the Housing Division at 406-841-2840 or email [bbrensdal@mt.gov](mailto:bbrensdal@mt.gov) by noon on May 27<sup>th</sup>, to confirm your attendance, so we can plan for lunch. **Please also review and bring your copy of the White Paper with you to the meeting.** There will be very few copies available at the meeting. Go to [housing.mt.gov/HCT\\_meeting\\_info.asp](http://housing.mt.gov/HCT_meeting_info.asp) and print a copy for yourself.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.